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International application number: PCT/US05/010072

International filing date: 25 March 2005 (25.03.2005)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: US
Number: 60/557,139
Filing date: 26 March 2004 (26.03.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 29 April 2005 (29.04.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland
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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/557,139

FILING DATE: *March 26, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US05/10072*



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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. EV313042149US

U.S. PTO
60/557139

INVENTOR(S)					
Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname		Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)	
Paul W.		Schneider		Oconomowoc, Wisconsin	
Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
FINGER FLICKER DEVICE					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number: 23598					
OR					
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name		Boyle, Fredrickson, Newholm, Stein & Gratz, S.C.			
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Address					
City	Milwaukee	State	WI	Zip	53202
Country	US	Telephone	414-225-9755	Fax	414-225-9753
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages 3		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number _____			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 7		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76.					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.		FILING FEE Amount (\$)			
<input type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.		80.00			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: _____					

[Page 1 of 2]

Respectfully submitted,
SIGNATURE Andrew S. McConnell
TYPED or PRINTED NAME Andrew S. McConnell
TELEPHONE 414-225-9755

Date 3/26/04
REGISTRATION NO. 32,272
(if appropriate)
Docket Number: 1079.001

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Provisional Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Applicant: PAUL W. SCHNEIDER

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Dawn M. Oleszak
Dawn M. Oleszak

March 26, 2004
Date

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2004**

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant Claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)**80.00**Complete if Known**

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Paul W. Schneider
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	1079.001

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None☐ Deposit AccountDeposit Account Number
50-1170Deposit Account Name
Boyle, Fredrickson, Newholm, Stein & Gratz S.C.

The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments☒ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 770	201 385	Utility filing fee	
106 340	206 170	Design filing fee	
107 530	207 265	Plant filing fee	
108 770	208 385	Reissue filing fee	
114 160	214 80	Provisional filing fee	80.00

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)80.00**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20	
102 86	202 43	Independent claims in excess of 3	
104 290	204 145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid	
109 86	209 43	**Reissue independent claims over original patent	
110 18	210 9	**Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)0

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FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Fee	Small Entity Fee	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 420	216 210	Extension for reply within second month	
117 950	217 475	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,480	218 740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 2,010	228 1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 330	219 165	Notice of Appeal	
120 330	220 165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 290	221 145	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,330	241 665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,330	242 665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 480	243 240	Design issue fee	
144 640	244 320	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
126 180	126 180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 770	246 385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 770	249 385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 770	279 385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)0**SUBMITTED BY**

Name (Print/Type)	Andrew S. McConnell	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,272	Telephone	414-225-9755
Signature	<i>Andrew S. McConnell</i>	Date	3/26/04		

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FINGER FLICKER DEVICE

Inventor: Paul W. Schneider

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FINGER FLICKER DEVICE

A finger flicker device 10 is in the form of a generally planar body have oppositely facing surfaces 12, 14 and defining an outer edge 16. A specially configured recess 18 is formed in the body of device 10. Recess 18 is configured to receive the tip of a user's finger F, for use in propelling device 10 through the air.

Recess 18 includes an arcuate edge 20, and defines an undercut area 22 which functions to form a hook section 24 on the body of device 10 adjacent the entrance to recess 18. Hook section 24 terminates in a pointed end 26.

On the opposite side of recess 18 from hook section 24, the body of device 10 has a split finger engagement section 28, which is located forwardly of a boundary 30 that extends generally tangentially to the innermost extent of recess edge 20.

Split finger engagement section 28 has a cleft construction, defining a pair of wings 32, 34 located forwardly of boundary 30. Representatively, device 10 may be formed of a pair of layers of resilient material that are laminated together throughout the entire surface area of the body of device 10, with the exception of the area of split finger engagement section 28. It is understood that this is but one possible construction of device 10, and that device 10 may be formed in any manner that defines a planar construction throughout its surface area with the exception of split finger engagement section 28, such that split finger engagement section 28 may be formed in any manner and joined to the remainder of the body of device 10. It is contemplated that the laminated construction of the body of device 10 as described provides a relatively simple and inexpensive means for forming split finger engagement section 28, and which is well suited for mass production.

Wings 32, 34 are resilient and flexible, which enables wings 32, 34 to be spread apart and to then return at least partially together. Again, this feature is satisfactorily provided by the integral formation of wings 32, 34 with the remainder of the body of device 10. Representatively, the laminated layers of the body of device 10 may be formed of any satisfactory resilient thermoplastic material, although it is understood that any other satisfactory material may be employed.

In use, device 10 is adapted to be engaged with a user's finger F, which is then used to propel device 10 through the air. To accomplish this, the user places the tip of his or her finger into recess 18, so that end 26 of hook section 24 engages the user's fingernail. Finger engagement section 28 engages the opposite surface of the user's fingertip. Wings 32, 34 of finger engagement section 28 are spread apart, so that wings 32, 34 engage opposite sides of the user's fingertip opposite hook section 24. With this arrangement, wings 32, 34 function to stabilize device 10 on the user's fingertip. The user then places his or her hand so that the user's palm faces upwardly, and curls the finger F back toward the wrist, while maintaining device 10 in engagement with the fingertip. The user then engages the thumb with finger F alongside device 10, and subsequently flicks the finger F by quickly straightening finger F and disengaging the thumb from finger F. Such quick and rapid movement of finger F functions to dislodge device 10 from the tip of finger F, and device 10 is then propelled through the air. The generally planar configuration of the majority of the surface area of device 10 enables device 10 to travel a significant distance through the air.

It is contemplated that the overall shape of device 10 may vary from that as shown. That is, the overall shape of device 10 defined by outer edge 16 may take any form other than that as shown and described, e.g. a generally round shape, an oblong shape, etc. A round shape may be formed so that device 10 may represent the outline of a baseball, basketball, soccer ball, etc., with appropriate graphics applied to the opposite surfaces 12, 14 of device 10. An oblong shape may be provided so that device 10 can resemble a football, again with appropriate graphics applied to the opposite surfaces 12, 14 of device 10. Any other satisfactory shape may be provided for the overall configuration of device 10, and representative shapes of device 10 are illustrated. In all configurations, however, device 10 includes recess 18 that defines hook section 24, as well as split finger engagement section 28 so as to facilitate engagement of device 10 with the user's fingertip.

It can thus be appreciated that opposite surfaces 12, 14 of device 10 present surfaces that are well suited for application of graphics or printed information, so that device 10 may be used as a vehicle for promotion or advertising.

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CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A device adapted to be propelled by a finger of a user, comprising:
a generally planar body defining an outer edge;
a recess formed in the outer edge, wherein the recess includes an undercut
section and wherein the body is formed so as to define a hook section adjacent the undercut
5 section of the recess; and
wherein a portion of the body adjacent the recess, opposite the hook section,
comprises a finger engagement section defining a pair of wings, wherein the wings are
resilient and are capable of being spread apart;
wherein the tip of a user's finger is engageable within the recess, wherein the
10 hook section of the body engages one side of the user's finger and wherein the finger
engagement section of the body engages an opposite side of the user's finger, wherein the
wings of the finger engagement section are adapted to be spread apart so as to stabilize the
body on the user's finger.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the body is formed of a pair of layers that
are laminated together except in the area of the finger engagement section, wherein the
layers in the finger engagement section define the pair of wings.

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